

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Revocation )  
 )  
or Suspension of the Educator )  
 )  
Certificate of Timeka A. McDuffie )  
 )  
Certificate # 209976 )

**ORDER OF  
PERMANENT REVOCATION**

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 11, 2004. On January 13, 2004, the State Board issued an order summarily suspending the South Carolina educator certificate (certificate) number 209976 issued to Timeka A. McDuffie. On June 30, 2004, the State Department of Education (Department) served notice of the possible suspension or revocation of her certificate by having Ms. McDuffie personally served by Richland County Sheriff's Officers at her residence. Ms. McDuffie did not request a hearing and is in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Mr. McDuffie's teaching certificate.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Mr. McDuffie holds a valid South Carolina certificate with just over one year of teaching experience. She was under contract with Newberry County School District (District) for the 2003-2004 school year as an English teacher at the Newberry Learning Center and was terminated following an investigation by law enforcement. Ms. McDuffie acknowledged to law enforcement that she had a sexual encounter with one of her fifteen-year old male students. Ms. McDuffie has been charged with criminal sexual conduct with a minor 2<sup>nd</sup> degree.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes: “Immorality; Any conduct involving moral turpitude, Unprofessional Conduct; Crime against the law of this State or the United States, and Evident unfitness for position for which employed.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that there is substantial evidence, which is undisputed by Ms. McDuffie, to support its decision to permanently revoke Ms. McDuffie’s certificate, effective August 11, 2004.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones  
Mary E. Jones  
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
August 11, 2004